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increased for better quality of life. To cope with this scenario, an optimal mix of energy sources should be exploited. Nuclear power being a clean source of energy, is one of the important sources of energy with potential to grow in future. Indian nuclear power programme is based on the strategy of self reliance and utilisation of the indigenous uranium reserves and the vast thorium reserves which the country is endowed with. Adequate provisions are made in the design to ensure that radio activity releases are well within the prescribed limits set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Indian Nuclear Power Plants have completed about 168 reactor years of operation upto the end of June 2000 without any radiological accident as defined by the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES), which has been devised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Atomic power generation in the country

2056. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the power generation in our country by using Atomic fuel during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether in the recent past, objections were raised from some quarter regarding use of atomic power as there is a trend in western countries to abandon the use of atomic power;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The

power generated by the nuclear power plants in the country during the last five years on a year-wise basis is given in the following table:

Financial Year	Nuclear Electricity Generated (MUs)
1995-96	7983
1996-97	9068
1997-98	10098
1998-99	12001
1999-2000	13394

MUs—Million units

(b) Electricity generation by nuclear energy in the world increased by about 26 per cent during the period 1990-99 as per information available. Although there has been slowing down in nuclear power capacity addition in U.S.A. , Canada and Western Europe, this is to be looked at in the context of their self sufficiency in meeting the electricity demand with a high level of per capita electricity consumption. The nuclear capacity addition is now centered in Asia.

(c) and (d) A study, based on International Atomic Energy agency (IAEA) documents indicates that between the period 1990 to 1997, 48 nuclear power reactors were connected to the grid and as of the end of 1998, 36 nuclear power reactors with a net capacity of 27536 MWs are reported to be under construction. Further, the share of nuclear power in 1998 is significant in many countries, like France 75.8 per cent, Lithuania 77.2 per cent, Korea 41.4 per cent, Belgium 55.2 per cent etc. (based on IAEA study).